difficult to conclude that standards of higher education in India are lower in comparison with those in the developed countries. Though there would be scope for improvement in standard, in several cases, the courses and programmes offered by universities/institutions in India, compare favourably with those offered in the developed countries.

(b) According to the information available, some universities in the developed countries of the West insist on qualifying in an entrance test or specially conducted language proficiency test for students from the developing countries including India.

(c) As a part of its statutory responsibility for maintenance and coordination of standards in the Universities, the University Grants Commission has been taking several initiatives and measures. These include strengthening of the infrastructure in the universities and colleges, introduction of new courses in emerging areas, improvement and updating of courses, support for research, improvement of faculty and so on. These measures are part of a continuous process.

Coaching-cum-schooling by SAI under NSTC Scheme

2842. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children who received the benfits of coaching-cum-schooling facility provided by Sports Authority of India under National Sports Talent Contest scheme during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of such children selected from rural and urban schools; and

(c) the number of children from Tamil Nadu who received the benefit and their age groups during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) scheme was launched by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) during the year 1985 and so far two National Sports Talent Contests have been held in November, 1985 and November, 1986. 158 children were selected in 1985; out of which 66 children took admission in the schools adopted by the SAI during the academic session 1986-87. 462 children were selected on the basis of NSTC 1986, and so far about 300 children have joined the schools adopted by the SAI for coaching-cum-schooling facilities during the academic session 1987-88.

(b) The percentage of children separately from rural and urban areas is not available as the selection is done on merit and no quota is fixed for children from rural urban areas.

(c) One boy from Tamil Nadu availed of the facility under the scheme during the academic session 1986-87 and two boys and two girls are availing of the facilities during the current academic session 1987-88. The age at the time of the selection of these children was between 9-12 years.

Ships built in India

2843. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of Indian owned ocean-going vessels were built in Indian shipyards;

(b) what is the cost of production and construction cycle of medium and heavy vessels when compared to those available in South East Asia;

(c) what is the plan of Government to encourage ship building in view of the fierce competition and high cost of construction and long period of construction cycle;

(d) what are the countries where ship building is directly subsidised and to what extent; and

(e) what are the causes for the failure of Indian ship building not being able to meet the indigenous requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The percentage of Indian owned ocean-going vessels built in Indian shipyards is as under:

	No. of vessels	GRT	DWT
Indian tonnage in operation as on 31-7-87 . . .	366	5542293	9059676
No. of vessels built in Indian yards . . .	70	555305	837363
Percentage	19.12	10.01	9.24

(b) The actual cost of production and construction cycle of medium and heavy vessels in South East Asia is not available. Cost of production and cycle time of construction of vessels currently under production in the two major Indian shipyards, viz. Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam and Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin are as under:—

	Hindustan Shipyard Limited	
27000 DWT BC	Cost (Rs.) 30.00 crores	Cycle time 27 months
42750 DWT BC	60.00 crores (estimated)	30 months
	Cochin Shipyard Limited	
75000 DWT	Cost (Rs.) 41.0 crores (Actual)	Cycle time 36 to 45 months
86000 DWT	72.0 crores (estimated)	16 to 23 months

(c) The Government have taken following steps to encourage indigenous shipbuilding:—

(i) There is a pari passu obligation on the Indian Shipping companies to purchase indigenously built vessels after they have acquired certain tonnage from abroad.

(ii) A pricing formula incorporating 30 per cent of the international parity price as subsidy payable to Indian Shipyard are in vogue. Currently the existing pricing formula is under review for further revision.

(iii) A new company by the name of Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. (SCICI) has taken over the functions of Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) from April this year which will grant soft loans to the Shipping Companies for acquisition of vessels.

(iv) The Public Sector yards are also being modernised/equipped to adopt more advanced technology to reduce cost of construction and period of construction cycle.

(v) There is also a proposal to establish National Ship Design Research Centre during 7th Plan to develop fuel efficient designs of ships in addition to extensive research and development work in ship-building. This will reduce design cost of ships and time taken as processing design from other countries.

(d) Some of the countries where the subsidy in shipbuilding is given are Japan,

South Korea, Taiwan, USA, West Germany, France, U.K. Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Norway and Spain. Direct and indirect subsidies being provided to shipbuilders in these countries are estimated to be varying between 35 per cent to 40 per cent of the cost of the new ship.

(e) It is not correct to say that Indian Shipyards are not able to meet indigenous requirements. The installed capacity of the Indian shipyards is far below tonnage requirements. But due to the unprecedented shipping recession the ships are offered by some of the far-eastern countries at prices below cost has resulted in the underutilisation of the capacities of the Indian shipyards.

Protocols signed with foreign countries in the fields of sports

2844. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed protocols in the field of sports with some countries during the last two years;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the priority games under the objectives of each such protocol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the last two years Governments have signed sports protocols with the German Democratic Republic (GDR) (for the years 1986-87), the USSR (for the years 1987-88) and Cuba (for the years 1987-89).

2. The sports protocols *inter-alia* include provision of scholarships, exchange of specialists and experts, coaches and sports teams in various disciplines, literature publications, films and video cassettes on different sports. Games and sports like Handball, Swimming, Volleyball, Boxing, Athletics (Track and Field), Gymnastics, Diving, Football and Hockey are covered under the Indo-GDR sports protocol. Volleyball, Gymnastics, Boxing, Chess, Archery, Hockey, Football, Athletics (Track and Field), Swimming, Weightlifting, Badminton, Tennis, Wrestling, Cycling, Water Games like Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking and Water Polo and Winter Sports are covered under the Indo-USSR sports protocol. Boxing, Chess, Volleyball, Basketball and Hockey are covered under the Indo-Cuban sports protocol.

3. Government have also signed a supplementary protocol with the USSR on cooperation between the two countries for developing the South Centre of the National Institute of Sports at Bangalore into a Centre of Excellence in certain disciplines like Athletics, Boxing, Weightlifting, Volleyball and Basic Sciences. Under this protocol, the Government of USSR will assist in organising the work of the Centre providing with sports and medical equipment, training of Indian personnel and holding of joint training camps.

Timely issue of GPF/CPF statements to teachers

2845. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that statements of General Provident Fund/Contributory Provident Fund account in respect of teachers are not issued to them for each financial year within three months after the end of that financial year as is the practice in the Central Government offices; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that such statements are made available to the teachers well in time?